GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

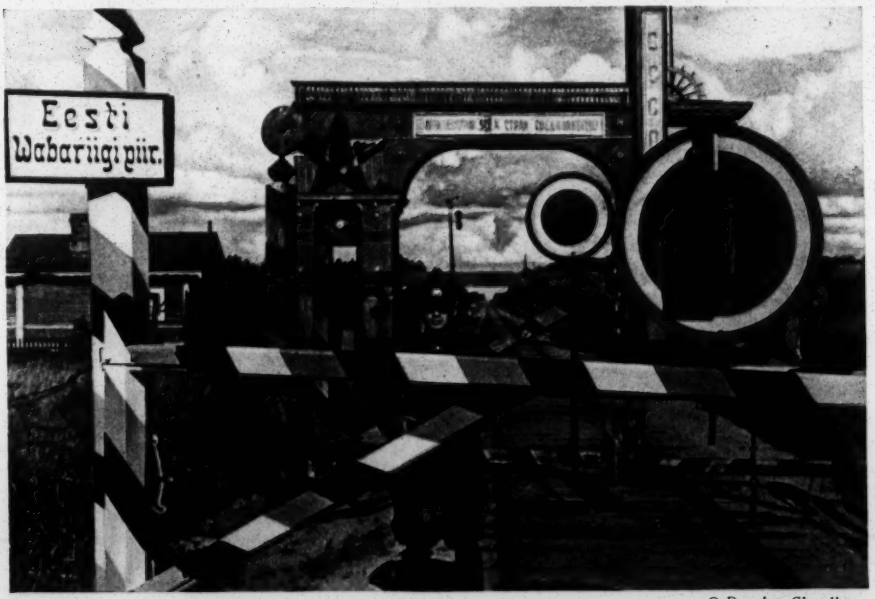
Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion. General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.)

Contents for Week of January 8, 1940. Vol. XVIII. No. 25.

1. War Loss Closes Finland's Back Door to the Ice-Free Arctic
2. Three Countries Engulfed by Map Changes in 1939
3. Mount Vesuvius Grumbles Above a Resurrected Pompeii
4. Speed, Distance, and Altitude Records Go Up in 1939
5. How Far Out to Sea Does a Country's Sovereignty Extend?



© *Douglas Chandler*

EVEN WELL-GUARDED BOUNDARY BARRIERS FELL IN 1939

Two gates across a railroad track, an armed Estonian guard, and barbed wire (left) bar passage at the Estonian-Russian frontier where the Tallinn-Leningrad railway crosses the border. The signs on the post (left) and on the arch in the background indicate that they are on Estonian and Soviet Union soil respectively. The Estonian barrier was one of those modified to some extent during 1939, when a treaty gave the Soviet Union the right to establish military bases in three Baltic countries (Bulletin No. 2).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers in the United States and its possessions for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (stamps or money order); in Canada, 50 cents. Entered as second-class matter, Jan. 27, 1922, Post Office, Washington, D. C., under act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized Feb. 9, 1922. **Copyright, 1940, by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Quedan reservados todos los derechos.**

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

War Loss Closes Finland's Back Door to the Ice-Free Arctic

FAR up north in Finland's barren treeless "land of the midnight sun" is the little port of Petsamo. Although it stands on the country's short Arctic coast and faces the North Pole, it is amazingly ice-free throughout the year. Since post-World War boundaries gave Finland this northern exit, it has been a valuable addition to the country's more numerous sea lanes in the Baltic to the south. But shortly before Christmas, Soviet forces beat back Finnish troops defending Petsamo and captured the country's only northern outlet.

65 Miles of Arctic Coast Is Tourist Resort

For centuries the Arctic region around Petsamo has been claimed by Finns, Swedes, Norwegians, and Russians. Its ownership has been so confused at times that it was once known as the "Common Land," its inhabitants paying taxes to as many as three governments.

The northern end of Finland appears on the map as three "peninsulas" that push far up toward the Arctic Ocean; but two of them extend into Norwegian land, and only the easternmost reaches the coast. This is the 4,000-square-mile district of Petsamo, which has a coastline of 65 miles, wedged in between Norway on the west and Soviet Russia. The Russian boundary is only about 10 miles east of the port.

Petsamo, more than 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle, is kept free of ice by a branch of the Gulf Stream, which warms the Arctic Ocean north of the Scandinavian Peninsula. While harbors hundreds of miles to the south are kept open only by ice-breakers, steamers move in and out of Petsamo harbor on winter schedules without difficulty.

Only a small village, Petsamo stands at the head of Petsamo Sound, a deep, narrow fjord that cuts back about 10 miles into the rocky coastline to the mouth of the Petsamo River. Several small villages and settlements lie on the shores of the fjord, including Liinahamari, actual northern terminus of the Arctic highway, where there is a government hotel with guests the year around. Ocean liners carry vacationists there around Norway's North Cape. Tourists arrive in the winter for skiing, and for fishing in the summer.

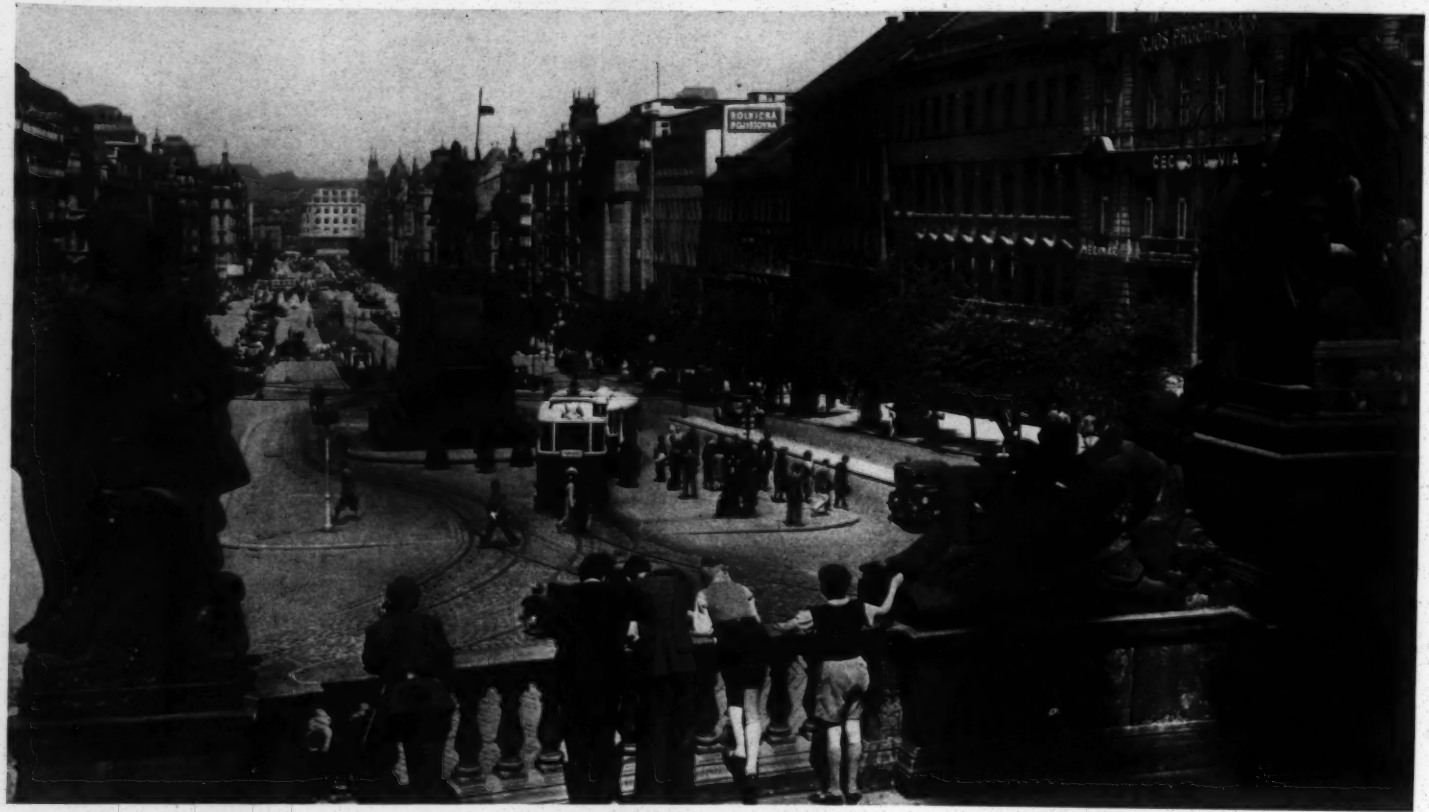
The nearest railroad at present ends about 250 miles to the south of Petsamo, but a good gravel motor road reaches the port. Busses run regularly over this road, carrying mail and passengers. In the dead of winter much of the travel is by sleigh. During the open season it is possible to travel by automobile from Helsinki, the Finnish capital at the southern end of the country, all the way to Petsamo.

Settled Lapps in Petsamo's Lapland

Traveling north to Petsamo, one goes for mile after mile through heavy evergreen forests, almost uninhabited. Then gradually the pines disappear and give way to rolling, rocky, treeless country near the Arctic coast. This is part of Lapland. About 2,000 Lapps live in the Petsamo area. Unlike their nomadic fellows in other parts of Scandinavia, the Finnish Lapps for the most part have settled down with a house, farm, and cow (illustration, next page).

Fishing is one of the leading industries of the district. The hardy Finns catch vast quantities of cod, flounder, haddock, herring, and salmon. A factory at Liinahamari makes fish meal. Inland from Petsamo are important nickel deposits, which were being worked by a Canadian company.

UMI



Photograph by W. Robert Moore

THEY SAW THE CITY CHANGE FROM A NATIONAL TO A PROVINCIAL CAPITAL WITHIN THE YEAR

Praha (Prague), the capital of the former republic of Czecho-Slovakia, was the scene of many changes as the country split into Slovakia (under Germany's protection) and the provinces incorporated into the German Reich as Bohemia and Moravia. The statue of King Wenceslaus (center) gives the name to Wenceslaus Square. Beyond, into the background, extends the short fashionable business street of Vaclavske Namesti, the Fifth Avenue of Praha (Bulletin No. 2).

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Three Countries Engulfed by Map Changes in 1939

FOR the map of Europe, 1939 was a convulsion year. Spasms of change swept the continent, resulting in the disappearance (as independent nations) of Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, and Albania. As a consequence, the altered map shows increases in the areas of Germany, the Soviet Union, Hungary, and Italy.

Other important changes were those not visible on maps, but apparent in diagrams that might show political ties between nations. Such developments were the extension of Soviet influence over the Baltic countries, the ending of the war in Spain, the election of a new Pope, and the granting of autonomy to Croatia by Yugoslavia.

Czecho-Slovakia Broken up on Ides of March

The end of Czecho-Slovakia came on March 15, when troops marched into Bohemia and Moravia (the Czech portions of the republic) and incorporated them into the German Reich as protectorates. The thousand-year-old city of Praha (Prague) lost its status as national capital (illustration, inside cover). Slovakia was placed under the protection of Germany and later became a base of operation for German troops invading Poland. Ruthenia, eastern extremity of Czecho-Slovakia, became a Hungarian state under the name of Carpatho-Ukraine.

On March 22, Germany annexed the port of Memel and the surrounding territory from Lithuania.

The "Ostmark Law" of April 14 made a formal end to Austria, dividing it into seven districts of Germany under the supervision of seven governors directly responsible to Chancellor Hitler. Administrative headquarters are in Berlin, not Vienna.

On September 1, after a series of demands on Poland for Danzig and the Polish Corridor had been refused, Germany attacked Poland and announced the incorporation of Danzig into the Reich. In a *blitzkrieg* lasting less than a month, Poland was overrun, and on September 28 Warsaw, the last city to withstand the invasion, fell.

Russian troops had entered Poland from the east on September 17, occupying territory once owned by Russia, and on September 18, in a meeting at Brest Litovsk, German and Russian representatives announced the partition of Poland. Germany received a little more than the western half of Poland, leaving the U. S. S. R. the eastern part. Transfers of hundreds of thousands of Germans and Russians from the conquered areas to their respective native lands were also agreed upon. Plans for a similar transfer of Germans from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the Reich were announced early in October, and the repatriations began in November. Still earlier agreements had been reached for the return to the Reich of Germans from the Italian Tyrol.

Three Polish Provinces Incorporated into Germany

On October 19, the German government announced the incorporation of the Polish provinces of Pomorze, Posen, and Upper Silesia into the Reich in the form of two newly created "Reich Regions," i. e., Danzig and Wartheland, with capitals in the cities of Danzig and Posen.

The Supreme Soviet formally took former Polish Western Ukraine and Western White Russia into the Soviet Union on November 1 and 3.

The U. S. S. R. signed treaties with Estonia (September 28), Latvia (October 6), and Lithuania (October 11), giving Russia the right to establish air and naval bases in those Baltic countries (illustration, cover). As a treaty result, the U. S. S. R. transferred the city of Vilna, which she had taken from Poland, to Lithuania. Vilna is the ancient Lithuanian capital which Poland had seized in 1920.

Demands for military bases were also made on Finland, but were refused, and on November 30, Russian troops invaded Finland. Because of the invasion, the Finns appealed to the League of Nations which, on December 14, expelled the U. S. S. R. from the League.

The 32-month-old war in Spain came to a close on March 28 with the surrender of Madrid. Generalissimo Franco became head of the State and president of the Grand Council of the Falange Espanola, which replaced the Republican Parliament. Madrid was reestablished as capital of Spain on October 16.

The beginning of the third year of Japanese hostilities against the Chinese (the second year was completed July 7, 1939) saw advances of Japanese naval and land forces farther and farther southward along the China coast. These advances resulted in the practical isolation of the British colony of Hong Kong, and in Japan's seizure of Hainan Island and the Spratly Island group, in the China Sea opposite French Indo-China. On November 15 Japanese forces landed near Pakhoi, a southern Chinese port near the Indo-China border. They advanced northward to Nanning, the capital of Kwangsi Province, and captured the city, thus threatening the main Chinese highway from Indo-China to Chungking, the Chinese capital.

UMI

During the latter part of the World War, when fighting was going on both in Russia and Finland between Bolshevik forces and the White Army, a British force was landed at Petsamo and a warship was anchored in the harbor.

A reminder of former Russian influence is the Petsamo Greek Orthodox Monastery, the world's northernmost institution of its kind, situated about 15 miles inland from Petsamo. Founded by a Russian monk in 1887, the monastery rises on the site of an earlier monastery, destroyed in the 1500's by Finnish attack.

Note: For further information and illustrations on life in Finland, and especially among the Lapps, see also "The Nomads of Arctic Lapland," *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1939; "Farthest North Republic," October, 1938; "Flying Around the Baltic," June, 1938; "Where the Sailing Ship Survives" (Aland Islands), January, 1935; and "Helsingfors—A Contrast in Light and Shade," May, 1925.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "United States Befriends Friendly Finland," October 30, 1939; "Hobbies and Hard Work in Finland," November 16, 1936; "Aland Islands Plead for Peace," March 30, 1936; and "Finland—Somber Land of Forests and Lakes," January 27, 1936.

Bulletin No. 1, January 8, 1940.

Photograph by Marvin Breckinridge

DON'T KNOCK; JUST WALK IN, TO VISIT THIS FINNISH FAMILY

Many of the Lapps in Finnish Lapland, the hinterland of the Arctic port of Petsamo, have settled in houses and abandoned the wanderings of their migratory brethren in Swedish and Norwegian Lapland. But Lapp etiquette, in view of the fact that houses and doors are recent innovations, does not call for knocking on doors before entering a dwelling. Settled Finnish Lapps have tables and chairs which the nomads do without, and they measure time by clocks (on wall, left) instead of by seasonal migrations of reindeer. The close cap with ear-tabs is characteristic of women's costumes; pointed shoes and dark stripe-trimmed blouse, of the men's.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Mount Vesuvius Grumbles Above a Resurrected Pompeii

TWO white-hot rivers of fiery lava may be all in the day's work for any active volcano; but when that volcano is the murderous Vesuvius, as it was recently, its eruptions of lava make the world uneasy, even during wartime.

It was Vesuvius which snuffed out the life of Pompeii, a thriving Italian city of twenty or thirty thousand people, on August 24, 79 A. D. Subsequent eruptions covered the city more deeply under its pall of smothering ash, so that it remained buried and forgotten for centuries. Its ruins were discovered by accident in 1594 during the tunneling for an aqueduct. Now the threat of Vesuvius is as dreaded as ever; for the "dead city" of Pompeii is not only alive again, but, as a living, speaking teacher of ancient history, is the world's foremost authority on Italian city life in the first century of the Christian era.

Picture of Life of 1900 Years Ago

Extensive digging in buried Pompeii was begun in 1748, but the motive was chiefly to recover and sell art objects. Not until 1860 was any attempt made to read and preserve the city's valuable revelations of life in the first century. In the newer excavations, pieces of furniture, sculpture, and household utensils are being left for exhibition in the houses where they were found.

Formerly, such treasures were carried off to the National Museum in Naples. This museum presents a fascinating picture of the daily life of Pompeii nearly 1,900 years ago—a city destroyed, but at the same time preserved, by ashes and cinders from flaming Vesuvius. On display are charred loaves of bread, wine and oil jars, and surgical instruments in use among Pompeians when the eruption stopped them in their tracks.

Popular Resort Attracted Cicero

Fifteen miles from Naples, Pompeii lies about a mile from the foot of the volcano (illustration, next page). Visitors usually receive two surprises. Expecting to see only a few ruined houses, they are unprepared for the many buildings which are closely built for block after city block. Pompeii was almost two miles in circumference. At the time of its burial, it was not only a flourishing commercial center, but a fashionable resort for wealthy Romans. Cicero had a villa there. Approximately 2,000 Pompeians perished in the catastrophe.

Most of the houses are roofless, their roofs having been crushed in by the weight of the volcanic stones, or having been salvaged as building material by returning survivors soon after the eruption of 79 A. D. Many of the walls, however, are still standing. Frescoes on some of them are almost as fresh as if painted yesterday instead of nineteen centuries ago.

Pompeians Lived Much in Public

The second surprise one receives is that the houses seem so small. That is because Pompeians lived the greater part of their lives in public: out of doors in gardens and in open air theaters, indoors in temples and baths. Preferring the public baths, few people had private ones in their homes.

A typical home had only one story, or, rarely, a low second story in which slaves slept. Its small bedrooms, store rooms, and larger reception rooms opened from a central hall, which provided light and air through an opening in its roof. At the back of the house, colonnaded rooms enclosed a garden. One of the best preserved Pompeian homes is the House of the Vettii. Its red and black frescoes

UMI

Albania was invaded on April 7 by the Italian Army, which seized the capital, Tirana, and forced King Zog and the government to flee. The Italian King Victor Emmanuel was proclaimed King of Albania on April 16, making that country a subject state. Francisco Jacomoni was named Lieutenant General, and a legislative chamber known as the Fascist Corporative Council was formed. The Italian King appoints its president and vice-president.

Croats of Yugoslavia Achieve Self-Rule

In a treaty signed June 23 between France and Turkey, the Republic of Hatay was returned to the latter. The territory making up the 10,000-square-mile state with the strategic port of Alexandretta had belonged to Turkey before the World War, and only in 1938 had been established as a republic under the joint protection of French and Turkish troops.

After a long series of negotiations in Yugoslavia, the question of Croatian autonomy was finally settled on August 24 with the creation of the Banat of Croatia. It possesses autonomous powers in dealing with all matters of domestic administration. The banat, with its capital at Zagreb, has an area of nearly 26,000 square miles and a population of approximately 4,423,000, or 26% of the total area of Yugoslavia and 28% of the population.

Annexation of "the Caprivi Finger" on August 1 was announced by the government of the Union of South Africa. This narrow strip of land linking Southwest Africa and the Rhodesias was formerly a part of German Southwest Africa, now under British mandate.

Most important change among rulers in 1939 occurred in the world's smallest state, Vatican City. On February 9, the 81-year-old Pope Pius XI died after reigning for 17 years. The Papal Secretary of State, Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli, was elected the 262nd Pope by the College of Cardinals on March 2. The new Pope assumed the name of Pius XII and was crowned on March 12.

Two Rulers Younger Than Five Years of Age

In Tibet a new spiritual and temporal ruler, the Dalai Lama, was chosen in 1939. Terminating a search which began in December, 1933, upon the death of the 13th Dalai Lama, a four-year-old Chinese peasant boy was chosen. He is looked upon by the Tibetans as the reincarnation of his predecessor. A regent will rule until the boy reaches his majority at eighteen.

Another boy ruler came to his throne in 1939: 3-year-old King Feisal II, who was proclaimed King of Iraq on April 4 after the sudden death of his father, King Ghazi, in an automobile accident.

Tiny Liechtenstein in Europe and two of the four Federated Malay States in Asia also received new rulers during 1939. On May 29 Prince Franz Joseph II was sworn in as reigning prince of Liechtenstein, at Vaduz, the capital. He had been ruling the 65-square-mile principality since March 30 when his uncle, Prince Franz I, relinquished all authority in his favor.

In Klang, capital of the Federated Malay state of Selangor, Hisamud-din Alam Shah was installed as sultan with colorful coronation ceremonies. On March 4 Abdul Aziz was elevated to the throne of Perak, also in British Malaya.

A peaceful settlement was made on April 6 between Great Britian and the United States over the question of the control of Canton and Enderbury Islands, in the Phoenix Group lying between Hawaii and Australia in the Pacific Ocean. An agreement was signed between the two nations for the joint administration of the islands for 50 years, in the interest of international aviation and communication. Equal civil aviation rights are to be enjoyed by both countries.

New constitutions were introduced in 1939 in Denmark and Malta. The new Danish constitution made these changes: (1) abolished the dual parliament, consisting of the upper and lower houses, and substituted in its place a single body, the "Folketing," to be composed of 210 members, 35 of whom are to be selected as a permanent advisory council known as the "Rigsting"; (2) lowered the voting age from 25 to 23 years; and (3) established the right to repeal, by means of plebiscites, laws passed by Parliament.

On February 26, Malta received a new constitution restoring representative government, which had been suspended in 1933. Restrictions disqualifying ecclesiastics from membership in the council and excluding the questions of language and defense from debate in the council also were incorporated.

The United States signed two more in its series of trade agreements in 1939. In April, the 21st in the series was signed with Turkey; and on November 11, the 22nd, with Venezuela.

Note: The changes in Europe which took place prior to September 1, 1939, are shown on the Map of Central Europe and the Mediterranean, issued as a supplement to the October, 1939, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*. Separate copies of the map, unfolded, may be obtained from The Society's Washington, D. C., headquarters at 50c (paper) and 75c (linen).

For background material on the countries in which 1939's epoch-making changes occurred, see "In Danish By-Lanes," *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1940; "Estonia: At Russia's Baltic Gate," December, 1939; "Historic Danzig: Last of the City States," November, 1939; "War Clouds Over Danzig and Poland's Port," October, 1939; "Pedaling Through Poland," June, 1939; "Kaleidoscopic Land of Europe's Youngest King" (Yugoslavia), June, 1939; "Vatican City: Treasure House of the Ages," February, 1939; "The Transformation of Turkey," January, 1939; "Farthest North Republic" (Finland), October, 1938; "Czechoslovaks, Yankees of Europe," August, 1938; "Flying Around the Baltic," June, 1938; "Changing Berlin," February, 1937; "Turbulent Spain," October, 1936; and "Europe's Youngest Kingdom" (Albania), February, 1931.

Bulletin No. 2, January 8, 1940.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)
General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Speed, Distance, and Altitude Records Go Up in 1939

MAN, in combination with his own creation, the machine, has established himself more firmly during 1939 as "the fastest animal." A pilot flew 575 miles an hour, an automobile driver sped more than 368 miles per hour, and a motor boat was driven 141 miles per hour. The new speed records stand as follows:

	In Air	In Auto	On Train	On Water
Miles Per Hour	575	368.85	134	141

Other records proved the endurance of the man-and-machine combination. Two aviators soared in a seaplane for a month—30 days of conquest of the realm of the air in California. A new high for seaplane climbing was reached by an Italian—44,457 feet, or 8.4 miles above the earth. With a parachute, a Russian made a jump of 32,808 feet, dropping 6.2 miles to earth.

41 Minutes from Paris to London

The speed records listed above have added new names to the roll call of speed artists. At Buffalo, New York, it was H. Lloyd Childs who dived at the rate of 575 miles an hour while demonstrating a Curtis pursuit airplane to French army officials.

For straight flying, however, a new speed record was made by a German flier, Fritz Wendell. He flew 469.11 miles per hour, six miles per hour better than the former record.

The late Francisco Sarabia, Mexican ace, made a record flight from Mexico, D. F., to New York—2,359 miles—in ten hours and 48 minutes. A new U. S. transcontinental flight record was set by a "flying fortress" of 22 tons when, in August, a bomber flew from Burbank, California, to New York, 2,500 miles, in 9 hours, 14½ minutes.

Alex Henshaw of England broke the round-trip airplane record from England to Capetown, flying the 13,000-mile route in 4 days, 10 hours, and 16 minutes, thus cutting 31 hours from the previous record. Paris and London are only 41 minutes apart by air since the new record made in January by a plane of the Royal Air Force.

Records Fell for Regular Clipper Flying Time

The women's light plane speed record was broken by Jacqueline Cochran in July when she flew over a Long Island course at a speed of 173.097 miles per hour. This bettered the former record, made by the same aviatrix, by about ten miles per hour.

The new air endurance record set in 1939 was made by Wes Carroll and Clyde Schlieper, near Long Beach, California, on October 30. In the air 726 hours, they broke the former record by 73 hours.

Clipper ship records fell too this year. The *American Clipper* of Pan American Airways flew from Southampton, England, to New York, by the northern route in 29 hours and 53 minutes. The *Yankee Clipper* set a new flight record between the Azores and New York; it flew the route in 17½ hours, or 29 minutes less than the previous record.

The *Atlantic Clipper* flew from New York to Bermuda, 779 miles, in 3 hours

UMI

include the famous cupids at work and play, reproduced on the postcards usually sent from Pompeii.

The buildings have been thronged with visitors at night as well as by day. Floodlighting the ruins has been one step in Italy's program for bringing the "dead city" to life.

Note: The following issues of the *National Geographic Magazine* contain additional material on Vesuvius and Pompeii, or Italy in general: "Augustus—Emperor and Architect," October, 1938; "Imperial Rome Reborn," March, 1937; "Sojourning in the Italy of Today," September, 1936; "The Perennial Geographer" (Vergil), October, 1930; and "Italy, Land of History and Romance," April, 1924.

Bulletin No. 3, January 8, 1940.

BACK NUMBERS OF *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE*

Until further notice, selected sets of certain back numbers of the *National Geographic Magazine* may be obtained from the National Geographic Society, for educational use only, at the rate of ten for $1.00 (postpaid in the United States and its possessions). The School Service of The Society has prepared a list of available back numbers issued between 1928 and 1938 inclusive, which are offered at this greatly reduced rate. Teachers ordering from this list may select as many sets of ten as desired. Contained in these issues are United States State and City stories, natural science articles, exploration reports, color illustrations, detail maps, and folded wall maps. Address your request for a copy of the list of available back issues to The National Geographic Society, School Service, 16th and M Streets, Washington, D. C.

Photograph by Clifton Adams

VESUVIUS HIDES BEHIND ITS OWN SMOKE SCREEN

From Montesano, with the famous island-sprinkled Bay of Naples in the foreground, the saddle-shaped profile of the volcano (16 miles away) is slightly dimmed by distance and smoke. The city of Naples contains some of the finest examples of the work of Vesuvius, in the collection of household articles which volcanic eruptions have preserved in the buried city of Pompeii. More recent discoveries in Pompeian excavations, however, have not been removed to Naples, but kept on the site of their discovery, so that Pompeii has become a museum city revealing how Italians lived 1900 years ago.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

How Far Out to Sea Does a Country's Sovereignty Extend?

SEA-FIGHTING in the American safety zone has called forth a warning to belligerents from the twenty-one American republics. The President of Panama has reminded European warring nations of the no-fighting neutrality belt which was drawn around both continents of the Western Hemisphere by the Panama Conference in October. The scuttling of the German pocket battleship *Graf Spee* near the coast of Uruguay, as well as the later scuttling of the German liner *Columbus* about 250 miles from the nearest point on the United States coast, were among the specific acts of trespass calling forth the protest.

Zone Serves As Protective "Bumper"

The Pan American neutrality zone extends a non-belligerent border over the waters from the southern boundary of Canada in the Atlantic southward beyond Bermuda and the Caribbean, southeastward around the elbow of Brazil, southwestward around the Falkland Islands and Cape Horn on the southern tip of South America, northwestward through the Pacific around both American continents to take in the Galapagos and Guadalupe Islands, to the U. S.-Canadian border again. In places the safety-border line lies as far as 1,200 miles from the mainland of the Americas, such as east of Florida. In other places it is barely 200 or 300 miles at sea, such as at the southern tip of South America and off the coast of California.

The neutrality zone sets up a "bumper" protecting some 21,000 miles of coastline on the Atlantic side of the two continents and about 15,000 miles on the Pacific side. The United States has only 2,700 miles of the Pacific coastline thus guarded, but on the Atlantic side it has almost half the protected shoreline—about 9,200 miles. The extensive shores of the Gulf of Mexico give the United States this preponderance. Next to the United States, the countries with the longest coastlines covered by the neutrality zone are Mexico, with 6,300 miles; Brazil, with 3,700; and Chile, with 3,000.

How far from its coasts any nation's sovereignty extends is the question which the neutrality zone tries to answer. But the subject has caused argument since a thousand years before the Christian era. In that period Minos, king of Crete, "made himself master of a great part of what is now termed the Hellenic sea."

Cannon Range Once Determined 3-Mile Limit

Today no nation claims absolute control, under ordinary conditions, over any part of the sea more than a few miles from its coasts. Territorial waters of the United States extend out three miles from shore, while some other nations fix the limit as much as six miles out. Norway, Sweden, and Denmark set the limit at four miles because deep coastal indentations complicate the drawing of a line.

The three-mile limit was adopted by the United States and Great Britain toward the close of the 18th century, because it represented the maximum cannon range of those days. Today, however, the range of coast defense guns is 20 miles or more, while bombing planes can operate hundreds of miles from shore.

Although the three-mile limit is generally recognized as the boundary of United States territorial waters, there actually are several other "limits" in existence for special purposes. Treaties between the United States and other nations permit U. S. Coast Guard (illustration, next page) to search vessels suspected of smuggling, 12 miles from shore. Some treaties also permit suspected smugglers to be stopped within one hour's sailing distance from shore; thus a slow boat might be

UMI

and 53 minutes in April, but that record was bettered by the *Bermuda Clipper* in November, by 4 minutes. In December, another small advance made by the *American Clipper* pared the time down to 3 hours and 45 minutes. Imperial Airways set a new record for the Ireland to Newfoundland transatlantic jump when the *Cabot* made the flight in 13.005 hours, or one-half hour less than the previous record.

Swimming Record Made on Yellowstone River

Italy laid claim to the world's altitude record for seaplanes when, in September, Colonel Nicola di Mauro climbed to a height of 44,457 feet in 1 hour and 58 minutes.

Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah, again was the scene of a new automobile speed record. In August, John R. Cobb, a London fur broker, sped 368.85 miles per hour, or about ten miles per hour faster than the former record held by another Englishman, Captain George E. T. Eyston.

In another realm of rapid travel, Sir Malcolm Campbell, former holder of automobile speed records, this year shattered the speed record on water by driving his craft 141.74 miles per hour. The former record of 130.9 miles per hour was made by the same pilot.

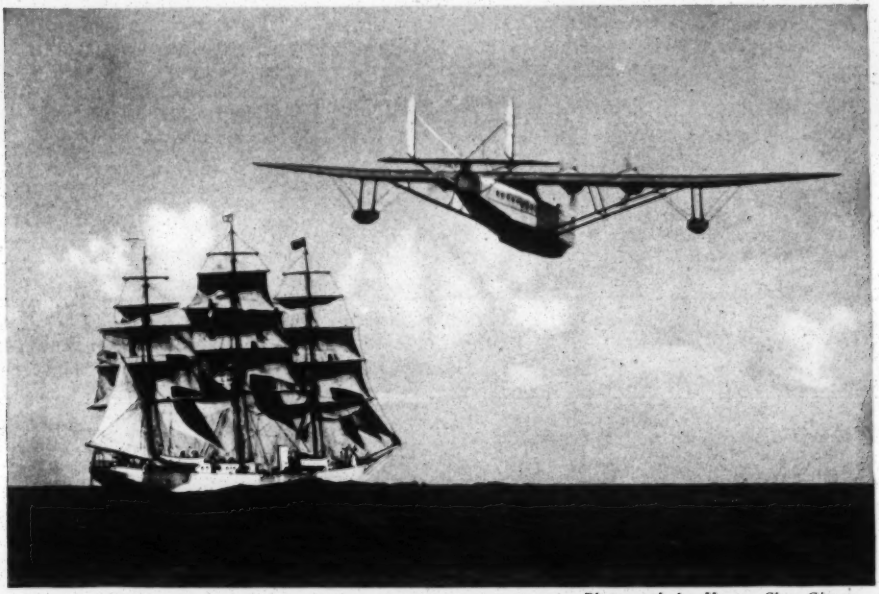
A streamline German train, operating between Berlin and Hamburg, set a new world's record for railroad speed when it ran at 134 miles per hour.

The French National Meteorological Office reported a new altitude record for unmanned balloons. A balloon equipped with scientific instruments soared from St. Cyr, near Versailles, to a height of 103,200 feet.

The highest recorded parachute jump is reported from Russia where Y. M. Solodovnik jumped at 32,808 feet.

Clarence Giles made the world's record swim. He swam 288 miles down the Yellowstone River in Montana in 77½ hours.

Bulletin No. 4, January 8, 1940.



Photograph by Henry Clay Gipson

EACH CLIPPER IN ITS TIME HAS CLIPPED OFF TRAVEL TIME

The full-rigged sailing vessel *Seven Seas*, of a type once considered speedy for ocean travel, made the voyage between Bermuda and Rhode Island in seven days. The modern winged Clipper in the air made the Bermuda-New York run in five hours—163 hours less. A later Clipper flight, in December, completed the trip in 3 hours and 45 minutes.

considered to be outside American territorial waters after traveling only five or six miles, while a fast one might have to go 20 to 25 miles to get beyond the "limit."

Many of these treaties were made during the time of national prohibition of the sale of intoxicating beverages and were aimed primarily at smugglers of those beverages. If a vessel is ordered to stop by a Coast Guard patrol within American territorial waters, and refuses to obey, it may be pursued, stopped, and searched even though it succeeds in reaching the high seas. Ships engaged in piracy or the slave trade may be legally stopped anywhere on the high seas by warships or patrol vessels of any nation. Many nations enforce laws relating to smuggling, neutrality, fishing, sanitation, and navigation as much as 16 miles from shore.

The idea that a nation might exercise legal control over the seas adjacent to its coasts grew out of former attempts of nations or their rulers to claim sovereignty over all the oceans.

Venice in its heyday tried to control the Adriatic Sea. Spain and Portugal at one time claimed sovereignty over the open Atlantic both north and south and even around into the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. French kings once claimed all the seas that touched their coasts.

Photograph by Clifton Adams

NEUTRALITY ZONE EXTENDS DUTIES OF COAST GUARDSMEN

To their usual jobs of life-saving, smuggler-patrol, and hurricane-defense, these men have added the duty of caring for survivors of sea battles taking place in the safety zone around the United States. The Coast Guard is cooperating with the Navy. Surfboat drill, pictured at the Cape Hatteras (North Carolina) station, prepares the Coast Guardsmen for rescue work in emergencies.

UMI